

Post 4-27-72

Big Government Is Enemy For 'New Policy' Klansmen

By Roy Whang

United Press International

HOWELL, Michigan. — They're still all white, Anglo-Saxon and Protestant, but nowadays some members of the Ku Klux Klan sound more like outraged New Left radicals than the hooded, cross-burning zealots of the more familiar image.

For some Klansmen, the new enemy is the FBI in particular and big government in general, rather than blacks, long-haired hippies, Catholics and Jews.

In fact, Robert Miles, Imperial Kludd (chaplain) of the United Klans of America (UKA) and a former Grand Dragon of the Michigan Klan, is actively seeking an alliance with some of the Klan's former foes.

"The real enemy," Miles said, "is not the black man but the concentration of power in the hands of the greedy few who manipulate our lives from New York, Washington and Boston."

Beaten by Youths

Miles was interviewed at a truck stop near his farm home at Cohoctah in rural Livingston County, known by many as "Klan country."

A few weeks earlier, Miles had been beaten by members of Youth Against War and Fascism while on a recruiting trip to Wayne State University in Detroit.

Miles made a point of noting that it was a group of black students who pulled the radical white youths off him.

"It's ridiculous for the

black man to be considered a threat," Miles said. "After all, he's in the same position as us—the victim of an evil corporate state."

"We've been oppressed, too. Most of us (Klansmen) are workers, either in the small shops or at the large assembly plants, and all of us have had to scratch for a living."

For many years Miles was a manager and safety lecturer with the General Accident Insurance Co. He was asked to resign after speaking at a public Klan rally last year. Now he farms and conducts Klan church services which resemble fundamental prayer sessions.

Buses Burned

Miles was accompanied at the truck stop by his nephew, Ed Reimer, 29. Both were charged last October along with four others of conspiring to thwart a federal court order and the rights of other citizens in the dynamite-ignited burning of 10 Pontiac, Mich., school buses shortly before a court-ordered integration of the city's schools.

Reimer was not indicted because of insufficient evidence.

Asked about "the conspiracy," Miles grinned. "What conspiracy?"

"I think the FBI did the bombing," he said. "If they're capable of penetrating the SDS, the Weatherman, and the other groups that have been accused of bombing, why couldn't they have done it in Pontiac?"

In what turned out to be a major theme of his running

commentary, Miles added: "If the trend toward the nationalization of the police continues, we're going to end up in concentration camps with the bearded radicals, some of the blacks, and anyone else who's opposed to federal authority."

Miles declined to say how many Klansmen there were in Michigan. But he said the UKA had 40,000 members in 22 states and Canada when it was organized and that over the past four years the UKA in Michigan had increased its activity by "1,000 per cent."

At first calling it "radicalization," then changing the term to "activation" so there would be no confusion with the left, Miles said the UKA has been active in pushing for control "of our community, our schools, our property, our children, over our own lives."

"We're not opposed to integration," he said. "As long as it's normal. But if I'm told I've got to live in Detroit or send my kids to school there, you can be damn sure I'm going to fight that."

Born in Manhattan

Miles was born and raised in Manhattan and thinks there was more integration when he was a boy than there is now.

"People of common background, interests and cultural roots should be able to live in their own communities," he said. "If someone else wants to move in, that's okay; but we're against forced integration."